

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, and an indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are pending and have been rejected.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,007,153, Benoit et al. This rejection is traversed.

The Benoit patent does not disclose one locking member that “moves along an axis of displacement that is parallel to and offset relative to a radial direction that intersects the pivot axis.” In the Benoit patent all the locking members move in a radial direction on an axis that intersects the pivot axis. There is no movement along an axis of displacement that is offset and parallel to an axis that intersects the pivot axis. In the device of claim 1, one locking member must move along an axis of displacement that is both parallel to and offset from an axis that intersects the pivot axis. The Benoit patent does not disclose this. Therefore this rejection is unwarranted and should be withdrawn.

The examiner has also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,095,608, Ganot et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Ganot ‘608 patent does not disclose one locking member that “moves along an axis of displacement that is parallel to and offset relative to a radial direction that intersects the pivot axis.” As with the Benoit patent, the Ganot ‘608 patent describes a device where all locking members move along an axis of displacement that passes through the pivot axis. Therefore, there is not disclosure of one locking member that must move along an axis of displacement that is both parallel to and offset from an axis that intersects the pivot axis. Therefore this rejection is unwarranted and should be withdrawn.

The examiner has further rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,164,723, Ganot. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The disclosure of the Ganot ‘723 patent is similar to the Ganot ‘608 patent and the above comments also apply to the Ganot ‘723 patent. It is contended that this rejection is not warranted and should be withdrawn.

The examiner has also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,474,740, Kondo et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Kondo patent also fails to disclose one locking member that “moves along an axis of displacement that is parallel to and offset relative to a radial direction that intersects the pivot axis.” The device of the Kondo patent is similar to that of the Benoit and two Ganot patents in that all locking members move along an axis of displacement that passes through the pivot axis. Therefore this rejection is not warranted and should be withdrawn.

The examiner has further rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,402,249, Rohee et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The disclosure of Rohee also lacks a locking member that “moves along an axis of displacement that is parallel to and offset relative to a radial direction that intersects the pivot axis.” The Rohee device is similar to the previously discussed devices and lacks the structure as claimed. Therefore, this rejection is no longer warranted and should be withdrawn.

Lastly, the examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the disclosure of U. S. Publication No. 2002/43856, Ikegaya. This rejection is traversed.

The device of the Ikegaya publication is similar to the above discussed locking devices. The device of the Ikegaya publication also lacks a locking member that “moves along an axis of displacement that is parallel to and offset relative to a radial direction that intersects the pivot axis.” Therefore, this rejection is unwarranted and should be withdrawn.

It is believed that the instant application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of allowance is requested.

Appl. No. 10/623,925
Response dated April 17, 2006
Reply to O.A. of January 17, 2006

Deposit Account Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in any amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, except issue fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1903.

Respectfully submitted,

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